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Patent Office
Canberra

I, KAY WARD, ACTING MANAGER EXAMINATION SUPPORT AND SALES hereby certify that annexed is a true copy of the Provisional specification in connection with Application No. PQ 2860 for a patent by LERIDA PTY LIMITED filed on 27 August 1999.

I further certify that pursuant to the provisions of Section 37 of the Patents Act 1990. Application No. 44791/99 was treated as a provisional application and reallocated no. PQ 2860.



WITNESS my hand this
Eleventh day of September 2000



KAY WARD
ACTING MANAGER EXAMINATION
SUPPORT AND SALES

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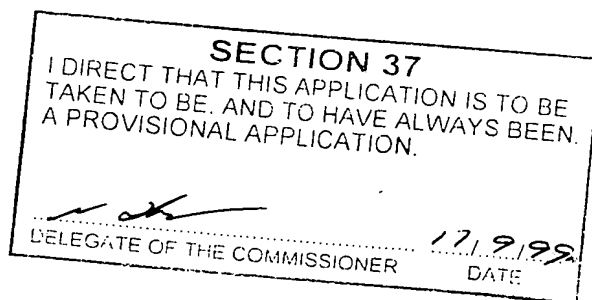
AUSTRALIA

Patents Act 1990

**ORIGINAL
COMPLETE SPECIFICATION
PETTY PATENT**

Invention Title: An information management system.

The following statement is a full description of this invention,
including the best method of performing it known to me:



An Information Management System

Field of the invention

This invention relates to an information management system and method of implementing same. More particularly although not exclusively, the invention relates to an information management system which can be used to monitor rights and obligations defined in documents stored in the system.

Background of the invention

Many individuals and organisations enter into contracts under which they must take specified actions by particular dates. Failure to comply with the contractual undertakings can have serious consequences.

For example, a corporation involved in a large project, such as a construction project, might enter into a number of different contracts with a number of different parties which prescribe a range of obligations that must be carried out by the contracting parties within defined time frames.

It is common with large projects for there to be fifty or more separate contracts, with very complex and multi-tiered inter-relationships or interdependencies between various project contracts.

In such circumstances, it is very important to ensure that, during the entire course of a project, all affected parties are aware of:

- which project contracts are affected by any particular event and, if so, how and to what extent; and
- in particular, where contract terms change, as often occurs during on-going projects, the implications of the change across the whole of the project's contractual matrix.

A diary system can be set up to ensure that the required actions are taken within the required time frames however there may be limitations with such a system as:

- managing a necessarily complex diary system can be a onerous, requiring significant resources; and
- such a system will not normally keep track of the contractual interdependencies and project dynamics mentioned above.

In this regard, it is not for example, unusual with large projects or undertakings for their to be fifty or more contracts entered into, each of which requires actions to be undertaken at predetermined times and which may extend over a period of months or years.

5 Where new contracts are entered into or terms of contacts change for any reason, it is important to ensure that any new contracts or changes do not conflict with previously agreed undertakings. Therefore before agreeing to a particular change a corporation might often need to be made fully aware of the other obligations which have previously been agreed so as to ensure that no new undertakings are agreed to which is in conflict with previously agreed undertakings.

10 Where in the specification the word "document" is used, it is to be interpreted broadly to include within its scope contracts, agreements, legislation, electronic text files, drawings or figures and any other item, or group of items, of written or printed matter.

Where in the specification the term "due date" is used, it is to be interpreted broadly to include within its scope a calendar date and/or time in which a specified event, action or milestone must be executed.

15

Summary of the invention

According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided an information management system able to assist with the management and monitoring of a multiplicity of documents containing rights and/or obligations including due dates arising out of a plurality of primary documents, the system including:

20

a database adapted to store in an electronic and searchable format the plurality of primary documents;

an electronic diary system linked to the database which records at least selected due dates arising out of the primary documents;

access means for use in interrogating the database and diary system; and

25

display means for selectively displaying both details of the documents and the due dates.

According to a second aspect of the present invention there is provided a method for implementing an information management system able to assist with the management and monitoring of a multiplicity of documents containing rights and/or obligations including due dates arising out of a plurality of primary documents, the method including the steps of:

providing a database adapted to store in an electronic and searchable format the plurality of primary documents;

providing an electronic diary system linked to the database which records at least selected due dates arising out of the primary documents;

5 providing access means for use in interrogating the database and diary system; and

providing display means for selectively displaying both details of the documents and the due dates.

In the preferred form of the invention the database may be divided into sections, each section cross referenced to the others, the sections including at least a first section which incorporates summaries of each of the primary documents stored in the database, a second section which
10 incorporates the primary document themselves, and a third section which incorporates the defined terms in each of the primary documents. Furthermore, the database may include a fourth section of related documents, ie, documents which in some way or another relate to the primary documents. Those related documents may be in the form of advices, correspondence,
15 annexures , contact details, standard clauses, or the like.

Preferably the database is sortable. For example, the documents may be sortable by title, by topic, or by party. Further possible sort topics may be appropriate such as, for example, sorting by obligation, creation date, level of importance, and various subject matter topics. Thus, arranging and organising of the database can be determined in accordance with nature of the
20 documents and the purpose for which the documents might be required by a person wishing to access the documents. Different types of projects might require different sort categories.

The electronic diary system will preferably record all applicable dates which arise out of the documents. The diary system will preferably have some form of notification arrangement associated therewith, such as an appropriate notification message (ie such as electronic mail)
25 being sent to an appropriate individual, which will be generated, preferably automatically at specified times prior to when each due date occurs and/or on the due date itself. A diary date may be entered into the electronic diary automatically when the primary document is entered into the database, or it may be entered manually by the person loading the document into the database. Preferably the diary entry will include an appropriate cross referencing arrangement
30 so that each diary entry is cross referenced to the portion of the particular document which

causes that diary entry to be generated. For example, a diary date could be cross-linked to the clause in the particular primary document which generated the diary entry.

Preferably the system is integrated into a communications network (ie such as the internet or an intranet) and reminders generated by the system are forwarded via the network to individuals who take responsibility for carrying out the tasks to which the due dates relate. Reminders may also be sent to others who monitor whether those tasks have been carried out.

Optionally the system may be updated or maintained or monitored using the communications network and, indeed, new documents and diary entries may be added to the system via such network.

10 The access means for use in interrogating the database and diary system may comprise a keyboard and screen so that the system is readily accessible using a personal computer connected to the database. The display means for displaying details of the documents may, similarly, comprise a personal computer, or it may comprise a printout, electronic message forwarded to a personal computer, or any other appropriate display or message generation
15 means.

The documents with which the system may operate may be of any appropriate nature. Typically each document will have a multiplicity of rights and/or obligations including due dates associated therewith. Those dates would typically be internal to the documents and may be distributed in different clauses spread throughout the document, or they may be dates which are external to the documents but which relate to the transaction of which the documents form a
20 part.

One of the more appropriate uses of the system could be for the monitoring of a multiplicity of different and multiparty contracts entered into by a range of different parties. The system will also be suitable for dealing with a range of other types of documents such as patent specifications, staff reports, personnel documents, prospectuses, bid documents, performance
25 reports, trust deeds, constitutions, multiple leases, funds management agreements and the like. Such documents may be collated and managed, and due dates associated with such documents monitored, using the system of the invention.

Brief description of the drawings

30 An embodiment of the invention is described below by way of example with reference to the accompanying illustrations. It will be appreciated that the example selected is but one possible

use of the system and therefore should not be construed as in any way limiting the ambit of the invention.

Figs. 1 - 9 show example screens which would be presented to a user employing the system for managing a plurality of contracts.

5

Detailed description of the embodiments

The illustrations depict one embodiment of a typical screen architecture or design which would serve as the user interface between the information management system of the invention and a user. As mentioned above, it is envisaged that the system would be set up to monitor a large number of documents and provide due date notifications as and when events which require action, as dictated by the documents, fall due. Typically, and as shown in the present embodiment, the documents comprise contracts relating to a particular project.

10

In the present embodiment the system is set up to monitor the large array of different contracts which an infrastructure project manager might enter into with various service organisations which interface with the project manager in relation to the use of the infrastructure facility.

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It will be appreciated that the types of organisations which might be involved in that interface include such groups as:

- municipalities;
- traffic authorities
- signage organisations;
- medical services;
- repair and maintenance services;
- security services;
- advertising organisations;

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Certainly it would not be considered unusual for an infrastructure project to have entered into a hundred or more contracts with these types of different services suppliers. Each contract with a third party organisation would typically have rights and obligations associated therewith, including obligations to undertake specified tasks or make specified payments at predetermined times or on the happening of predetermined or preselected events.

Very often the project environment is dynamic, with contracts being of a developing or changing nature.

In such an environment, the management company would need the tools to enable it to ensure that:

- 5 ◦ the management company;
- relevant suppliers; and
- all other persons whose performance is affected by the relevant contracts,

are aware of the implications of changes within the project contract matrix and, overall, satisfy their respective obligations.

10 Referring to Fig. 1, it will be noted that the screen is arranged as a typical NETSCAPE NAVIGATOR™ web browser screen provided by Netscape Communications Corporation.

In this embodiment of the invention, the system is network based which allows the system to be accessed by authorised users using the World Wide Web.

The screen itself is divided into two sections, namely an index section shown by broken lines as
15 index section 10 and an information section 12. The index section 10 provides a facility for navigating within the database and the information section 12 provides information, at different levels of detail, of the different sections of the database.

The screen shown in Fig. 1 details what are in effect summaries of the different agreements contained within the system. The summaries may be sorted to suit the user and the screen
20 shown at Fig. 1 has the summaries sorted by alphabetically "title". It will be noted that the summaries may also be sorted by "category", ie. the topic to which the agreements relate, or by "party".

Fig. 2 depicts the summaries sorted by category. Two of the categories are depicted in the Fig. 2 screen and other categories include "design and construction", "insurances", "intellectual
25 property" and the like. It will be noted that each of the categories is expandable and in Fig. 2 the category "security" has been expanded to illustrate the seven agreements which are broadly relevant to that topic.

It will be noted that the seven agreements which are listed under "security" have short summaries associated therewith which provide an outline of the nature of those particular
30 agreements. A user of the system who is in any way familiar with the contracts which are

stored in the database would be able to identify which particular contract is being referred to from the details set out in a summary. By selecting the relevant hypertext link, a user can immediately access the content of these summaries.

Turning to the screen shown in Fig. 3, a summary of a particular agreement is shown in more detail. In this instance the screen shows details of the "ABA Agreement (Summary)". In particular, the summary shows details of the parties and the purpose of the agreement. Also, the categories broadly relevant to the agreement are listed and electronically linked to relevant detail in either the summary and/or the particular agreement. The summary also contains a brief description of the important clauses of the relevant agreement, together with hypertext links directly to the relevant clauses in the actual agreement. Thus, the database stores a summary of the contract with access to the individual contract clauses also being obtained through a readily expandable indexing system which enables a user to quickly and efficiently seek out the clause which he or she requires.

A user has multiple means of viewing the contents of a summary. A user can view the contents by starting at the beginning of the summary and then moving down through its contents by using the arrows on the right hand side of the screen. Alternatively, by selecting one of the headings (eg. Breach events, or Key date(s)) on the index section 10, the user is immediately shown the relevant part of the summary.

If a user is interested in immediately viewing any or all of the topics identified as relevant to the ABA Agreement, they first select the hypertext link "Categories" shown on the index section 10, and the screen shown in Fig 3A is displayed on the web browser.

The screen shown in Fig 3A illustrates to the user, the categories which are broadly relevant to the ABA Agreement. If, for example, the user wants to see the summary's description relevant to Maintenance and Repairs, the "Summary below" hyperlink text is selected for that category and the user is then shown the relevant part of the summary. Alternatively, if the user wants to view the actual clause of the contract relevant to Maintenance and Repairs, the user selects the "[Clause 8]" hypertext link and the screen shown in Fig 4 is displayed on the web browser so that the user can view that relevant clause of the ABA Agreement.

Using the embodiment of the present invention, it is possible for a user to view parts of an Agreement in summary form and then, as the information of each document is cross-referenced using hypertext linking on the web page, review those other documents or parts of documents which require review.

Turning to Fig. 5, a screen is shown which details a list of "advices" which might be relevant to the management of the infrastructure project. Those advices might be in the form of, for example, letters of advice or memoranda from solicitors, replies to questionnaires provided by service providers, or any other document which the user of the system feels should be included in a list of, "advices". Optionally those advices may be accessible only to certain users of the system, such a top level management, or different categories of advices might be accessible by different individuals within an organisation.

In other embodiments of the invention, the system could have further categories of documents added thereto, and the "advices" screen is intended to suggest one form of additional screen which might be suitable for an information management system of the type under consideration.

Fig. 6 depicts a screen which lists all of the agreements, by title, on the system. A user can view the text of a particular agreement by selecting the hypertext link for the relevant agreement. The example shows only eleven agreements but clearly, as mentioned above, the system may contain as many agreements as the user feels is appropriate. Typically a system would be used for one particular project but the extent to which a user bundles together agreements relating to more than one project depends, of course, on a particular user's preferences.

Fig. 7 depicts a "planner" or diary screen. Fig 7A and 7B depict the monthly checklist screen.

The planner screen (fig 7) is designed to notify the user when events or obligations detailed by the contracts stored in the database fall due for action. Figure 7 depicts the month of January 1999. For example, the entry on January 1 1999 indicates that "Company A to pr..." in hypertext link. If this is selected the browser displays the details for the due date: "Company A to provide Operation and Maintenance Report" which must be provided on 1 January 1999. The browser also displays a hypertext link to the description of that obligation in the relevant summary and a hypertext link to the relevant clause in the agreement itself. This enables the user to access readily more information relevant to the particular due date.

Thus, a user of the system can use the diary system for monitoring dates of importance relating to any of the clauses of all of the contracts on the system.

It will be appreciated that some of those dates would typically occur monthly, some of them annually, and others might occur on a more random or adhoc basis.

Referring now to figures 7A and 7B, there is depicted a monthly checklist screen. This is designed to list chronologically for the user in a checklist format, the diary entries for that month. Thus, a user can use this list to check that the obligations have been fulfilled.

When the contracts are entered into the database all due dates which arise out of the contracts should be entered into the planner. One possible option is for the due dates to be extracted automatically from the contract at the time of entry or loading of the contracts into the database. It is envisaged that this would require the dates to be entered into the contracts with a suitable "marker" attached thereto so as to allow for automatic extraction thereby ensuring that the system would be sufficiently "intelligent" to identify and extract dates from all the clauses of the contract. Otherwise, the dates would simply be manually extracted by the person who downloads the contracts onto the database to thereby ensure that all appropriate diary dates are correctly entered against all relevant future obligations.

Thus, the system allows a user to interface a diary system with contract clause entries in a user friendly and readily accessible manner. The user is able to keep track of contracts relating to a particular project in one database and has comfort that certain dates relating to those contracts are stored in a correlated and cross-referenced diary system. Clearly, as the project develops and more contracts are added to the system the dates pertaining to those additional contracts can be included into the planner and, if necessary, conflicting dates identified. The system could be developed so that any conflicts, or certain types of conflicts, are automatically highlighted.

Fig. 8 depicts a "search" screen which can be used to search through the database for information which might pertain to a particular subject matter or phrase. Thus, if a user wished to find all clauses of the agreements on the system which might relate to an issue such as "Motorway" then the word "Motorway" is typed into the search block and a search carried out through all documents on the system for that term. Thus, provided the contracts have used relatively consistent terminology for the same types of matters then a search in this manner would allow the user to be reasonably confident that all clauses in the various contracts in the system which impact on those matters will be located in the search. Clearly this can have considerable advantages for the user of the system. Optionally the search tool may be made more sophisticated to allow for boolean searching thereby enabling a search to be more accurately targeted then simply for a particular term or phrase.

Fig 9. depicts the results of the search which has been carried out and it would be noted that the results are listed in levels of relevance which is determined by the number of times the search

term occurs in the relevant document. The more relevant clauses are listed at the top of the search results with a darker block adjacent to the first item, and the less relevant clauses listed at the bottom of the list, with a lighter block adjacent thereto. Clearly, where the database contains a large number of contracts the ability to search through those contracts, and list the search results in levels of relevance will be particularly advantageous.

It will be appreciated that the system described herein would be particularly advantageous for use with large projects or large undertakings. In order to review the contracts for the project it will not be necessary for any person to have access to a hard copy of the document. Multiple users can thus be given access to all, or selectively only some of the documents, and will be able search for particular information which pertains to their field of activity or for which they might be responsible. Thus, by accurately and responsibly managing the database a user can be confident that all persons who need access to the documents have access to a correct version of the document and that appropriate persons are all fully and timeously made aware of due dates which arise in relation to obligations arising out of those contracts.

It will also be possible for a user to outsource the management of the database. For example, where a user employs the services of a firm of solicitors to act on its behalf in preparing contracts and agreements it will be possible for the firm of solicitors to manage the database and thereby ensure that all contracts are loaded correctly onto the database, and all dates which arise out of those contracts are entered into the planner section of the database. It will be possible to add additional contracts, as they are entered into, onto the database from a remote location via the Internet which is one reason why it is preferable to have the system as a network based system. Also, a network based system allows individuals within a user organisation to be automatically reminded by electronic mail as and when obligations fall due and, as previously mentioned, it will be possible to remind different people within an organisation so as to ensure that checks and balances are built into the project.

Clearly, the invention may be easily modified to contain a host of different types of documents. For example, the system will be suitable for storing in electronic format a large number of patent specifications and all dates pertaining to those patent specifications can be stored in the planner section of the database. Thus, a user would be advised when renewal dates on particular patents fell due, and, once again, a user would have access to a cross linked system so that not only would the user be reminded when the dates fell due, but also have immediate access to the patent specifications stored on the system so as to be able to cross check which

patent it was that had fallen due for renewal by checking on a summary of the patent, or the patent specification itself.

Clearly, other forms of documents could equally well be installed using this system. This system has particular application where there are a large number of complex documents, where
5 there are multiple inter-relationships between the documents, and where dates and obligations are associated with the documents that are stored.

It will be understood that the invention disclosed and defined herein extends to all alternative combinations of two or more of the individual features mentioned or evident from the text or drawings. All of these different combinations constitute various alternative aspects of the
10 invention.

The foregoing describes an embodiment of the present invention and modifications, obvious to those skilled in the art can be made thereto, without departing from the scope of the present invention.

Claims

1. An information management system able to assist with the management and monitoring of a multiplicity of documents containing rights and/or obligations including due dates, arising out of a plurality of primary documents, the system including:

a database adapted to store in an electronic and searchable format the plurality of primary documents;

an electronic diary system linked to the database which records at least selected due dates arising out of the primary documents;

access means for use in interrogating the database and diary system; and

display means for selectively displaying both details of the documents and the due dates.

2. An information management system according to claim 1, wherein the database is divided into sections, each section cross referenced to the others, the sections including:

at least a first section which incorporates summaries of each of the primary documents stored in the database;

a second section which incorporates the primary document themselves, and a third section which incorporates the defined terms in each of the primary documents.

3. An information management system according to claim 2, wherein the database further includes:

a fourth section of related documents in the form of advices, correspondence, annexures, contact details, or standard clauses, which relate to the primary documents.

4. An information management system able to assist with the management and monitoring of a multiplicity of documents containing rights and/or obligations including due dates, arising out of a plurality of primary documents, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Dated this 27th day of August 1999

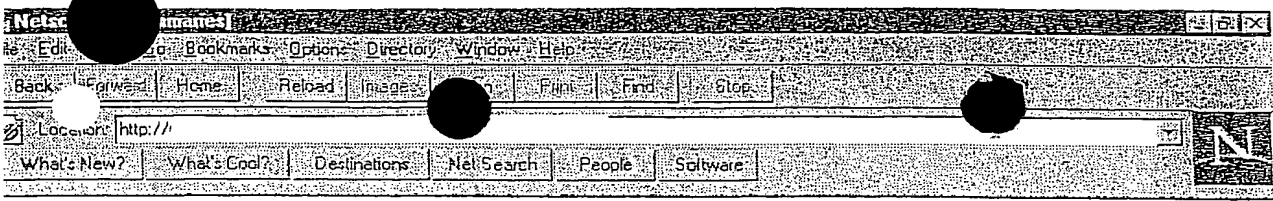
LERIDA PTY. LIMITED

by its attorneys

Freehills Patent Attorneys

Abstract

An information management system able to assist with the management and monitoring of a multiplicity of documents containing rights and/or obligations including due dates, arising out of a plurality of primary documents. The system includes a database adapted to store in an electronic and searchable format the plurality of primary documents, in addition to an electronic diary system linked to the database which records at least selected due dates arising out of the primary documents. There is also provided an access means for use in interrogating the database and diary system; and a display means for selectively displaying both details of the documents and the due dates.



Contract Management System

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Summaries by title

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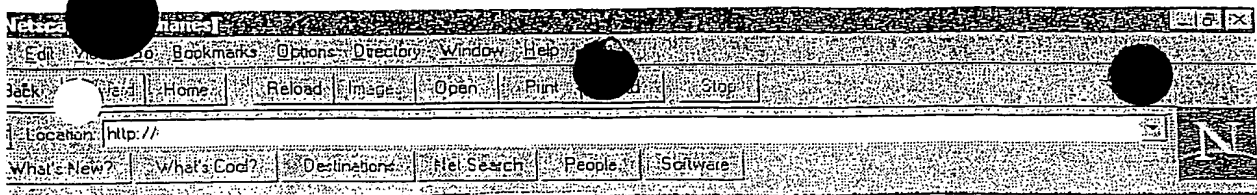
A.E.A. Agreement	Fixed and floating charge over all of Company A's assets and Company B's right of indemnity.
ABB Agreement	Regulates the obligations of Company A to Company B
ABC Agreement	Regulates marketing activities of Company D and Company F
ABD Agreement	Indemnity given from Company D to Company F
ABF Agreement	Agreement to grant a lease to Company D
ABG Agreement	Amends Agreement XYZ, with respect to the Managers obligations and the Construction deadlines are altered.
ABH Agreement	Sets out the respective roles of Company A and Company D with respect to the Design and Construction of the Project



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FIG 1



Contract Management System

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Summaries by category

Security

- by Title
- by Category
- by Party

[ABA Agreement](#) Fixed and floating charge over all of Company A's assets and Company B's right of indemnity.

[ABB Agreement](#) Regulates the obligations of Company A to Company B

[ABC Agreement](#) Regulates marketing activities of Company D and Company F

[ABD Agreement](#) Indemnity given from Company D to Company F

[ABF Agreement](#) Agreement to grant a lease to Company D

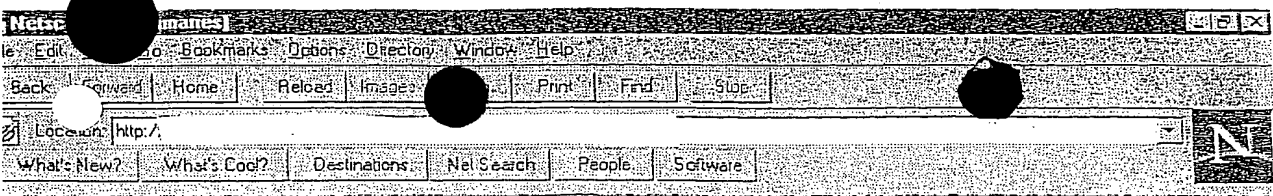
[ABG Agreement](#) Amends Agreement XYZ, with respect to the Managers obligations and the Construction deadlines are altered.

[ABH Agreement](#) Sets out the respective roles of Company A and Company D with respect to the Design and Construction of the Project

Shareholders

FIG 2

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ABA Agreement (Summary)

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- [Breach consequences](#)
- [FHP](#)
- [Advices](#)
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ABA Agreement (Summary)

Parties

AA Company, AB Company, AC Company

Purpose/effect

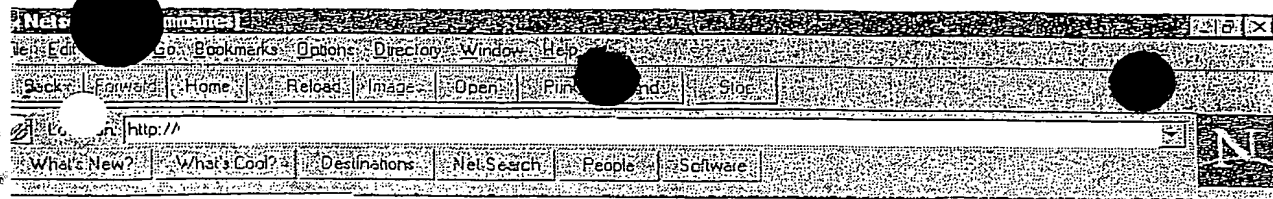
A loan from AA Company to AB Company

Execution date and term

Executed - 01/01/1980

Expires - 01/01/1999

FIG 3



Contract Management System

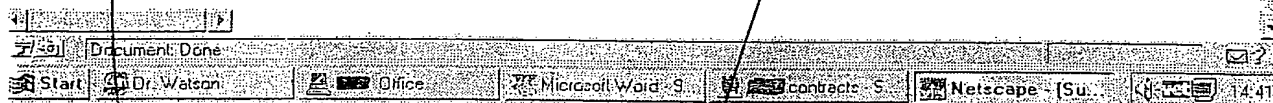
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ABA Agreement (Summary)

Categories

- Maintenance and Repair [Summary Below] [Clause 9]
- Design and Construction [Summary Below] [Clause 2]
- Intellectual Property [Summary Below] [Clause 4]
- Insurance [Summary Below] [Clause 12(h)]
- Security [Summary Below] [Clause 21]
- Shareholders [Summary Below] [Clause 1.7]
- Motorway [Summary Below]
- Finance arrangements [Summary Below] [Clause 14]

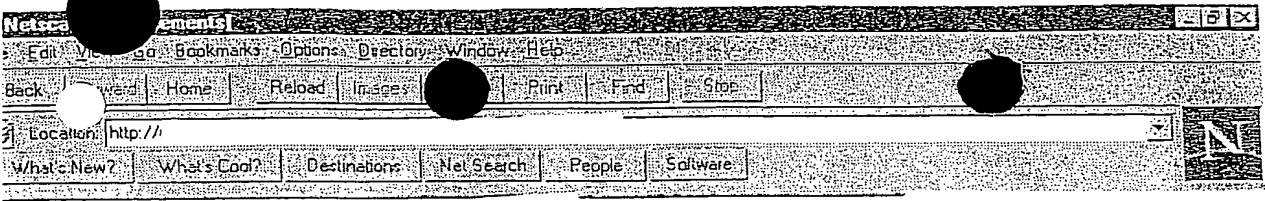
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FIG 3A



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ABC Agreement (Agreement)

8. Maintenance, Repairs and Capital Improvements

8.1 Approval

(a) All maintenance and repair works at the Project, other than those which are the responsibility of Approved subcontractors must be carried out by the Manager on behalf of AB Company in accordance with the relevant Asset Management Plan and Asset Management Budget or otherwise with the Approval of AB Company.

(b) Nothing in this clause 8 derogates in any way from the AB Company's obligations to perform its functions in accordance with clause 28.1(a).

8.2 Maintenance and repair

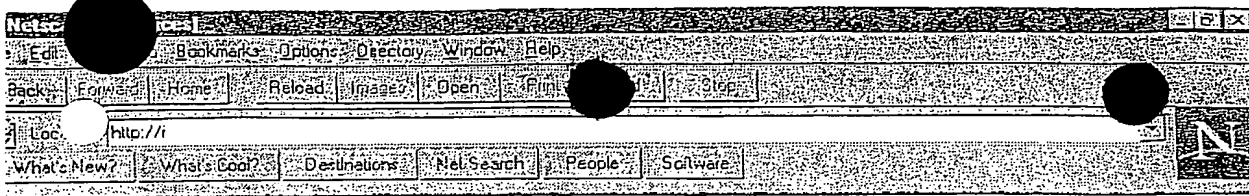
(a) The Manager must undertake all day to day repairs (if necessary, by replacement) of all damaged, destroyed or lost fixtures, fittings, furnishings, floor coverings, paintwork, chattels and other appurtenances and facilities of the Site unless such items can no longer be economically repaired or they have reached or are reaching the end of their useful life in accordance with normal



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FIG 4

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Advices

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[Advertising Issues - Letter 03/02/1999](#)

[Completion Date of Project - Fax 30/ 11/1998](#)

[Continuous Disclosure - Memo 14/08/97](#)

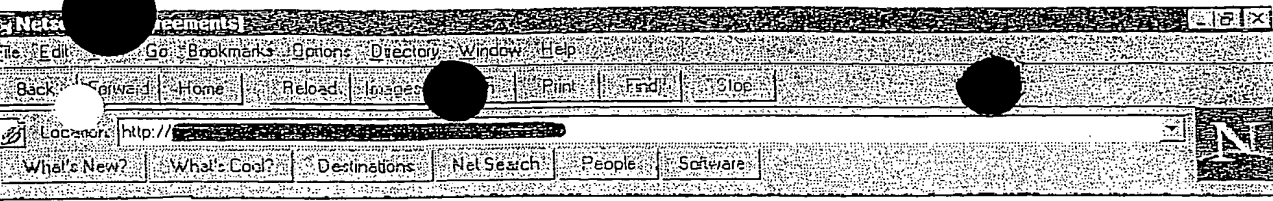
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FIG 5



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Agreements

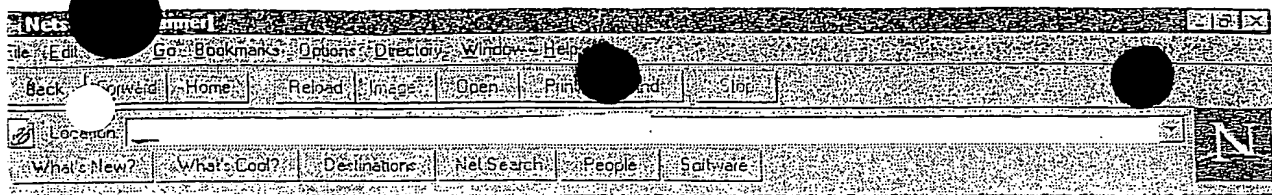
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- [ABA Agreement](#)
- [ABB Agreement](#)
- [ABD Agreement](#)
- [ABE Agreement](#)
- [ABF Agreement](#)
- [ABG Agreement](#)
- [ABI Agreement](#)
- [ABJ Agreement](#)
- [ABK Agreement](#)



FIG 6



Contract Management System

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Planner

- [Monthly calendar](#)
- [Monthly checklist](#)

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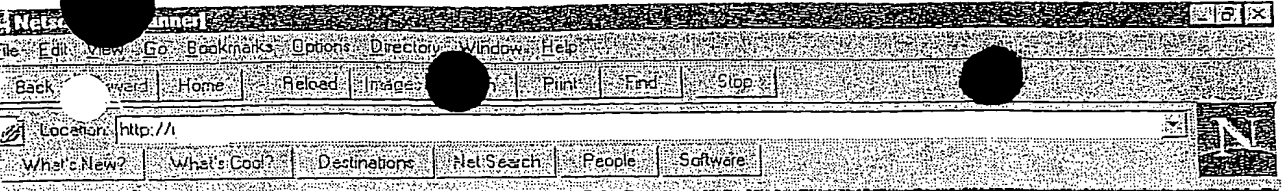
16

January 1999

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
28	29	30	31	1 Company A to pr...	2	3
4	5 Company A to pa...	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 BC Lease expire...	19	20	21	22 Management meet...	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



FIG 7



Contract Management System

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Monthly checklist

- [Monthly calendar](#)
- [Monthly checklist](#)

January

97
98
99
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005

FIG 7A

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Netcape - [Planner]

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Contract Management System

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Monthly checklist

- Monthly calendar
- Monthly checklist

January 99 Show

Date	Description	Yes	Completed		N/A
			No		
01/01/1999	Company A to provide Operation and Maintenance Report	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
05/01/1999	Company A to pay Monthly Management fee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
18/01/1999	BC Lease expires today	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
22/01/1999	Management meeting must be held within 22 days of the end of the	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

Document Done

Start Dr. Watson Office Favorites PK Netscape Netscape (Fr) Microsoft Wor

10

12

FIG 7B

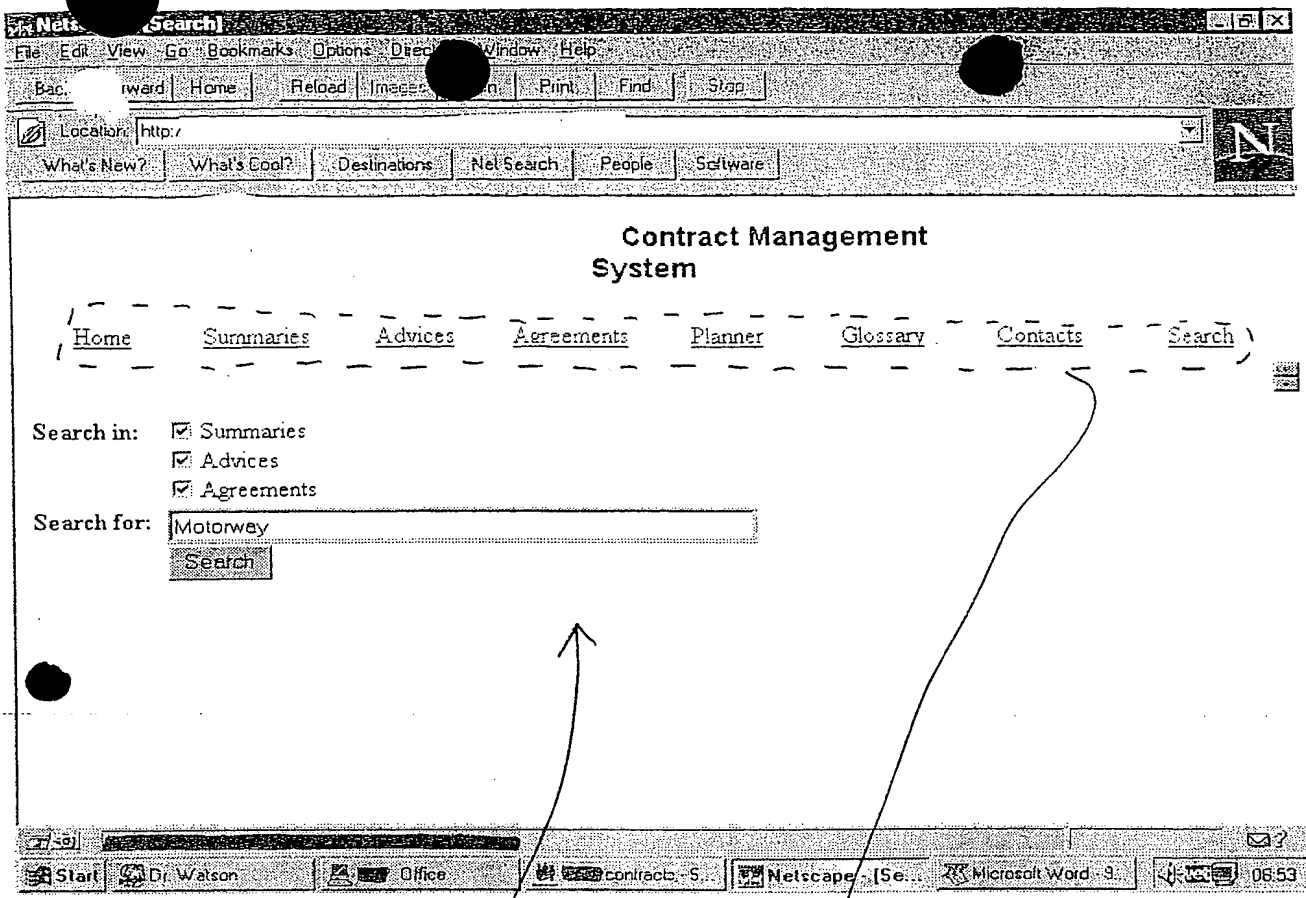


FIG 8

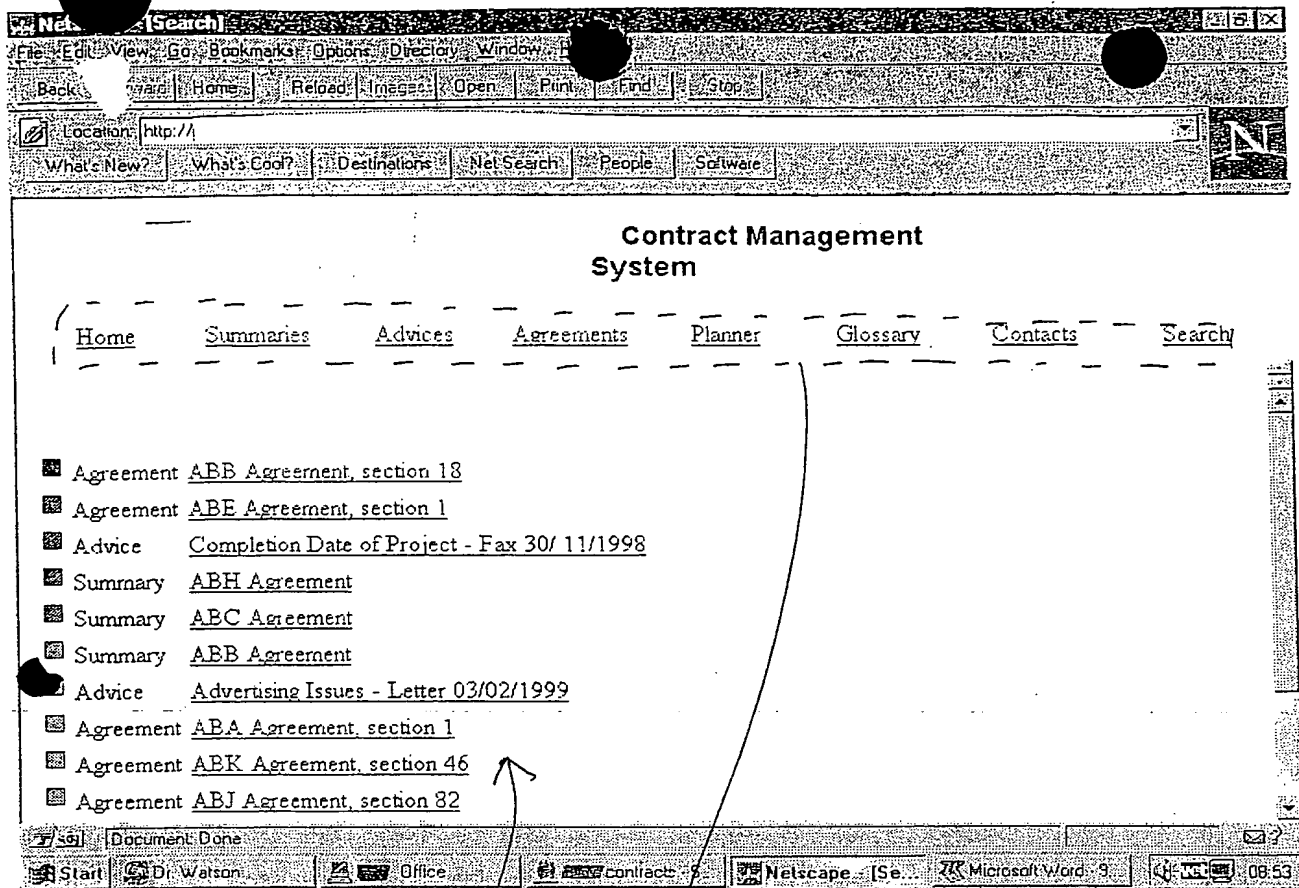


FIG 9

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